

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 13, 2010

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Seth Adams, Steve Cardon, Julie Carr, David Davis, Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, and Tolu Odunlami Donna Vincent Roa

Absent: Kris Dighe

Guests: John Britton, Rockville Mayor and Council Liaison
Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management
Jake Marren, City of Rockville Environmental Management
Laura Shlee, Rockville Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:36 pm. by Beri Kravitz, Acting Chair

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 9, 2010 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclimation (Adams moved /Davidson seconded).

Earth Day Environmental Photo Contest

Facilitated by Jake Marren, the Commission evaluated and voted on 40 photos in four (age) categories. Category winners and honorable mentions will be announced at the City's Earth Day celebration on April 22. Winning photos will be displayed in various locations around the City, including City Hall

Science Day, Earth Day and Hometown Holiday Preparations

The Commission will participate with a table at the City's **Earth Day** celebration on **April 22, 2010** from 6:00 -8:00 pm in Town Square. The focus of the event will be to recruit potential committee and commission members. Chair Dighe will be asked to speak on behalf of the Commission.

Science Day is scheduled for **Sunday, April 25, 2010** at Montgomery College from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Commission will have two tables worth of space. The focus of the event will be on energy, water quality and recruiting. Commissioners are asked to bring a camera to the event. Photos will be posted on Flickr.

Hometown Holidays is scheduled for **May 29-30**. The Commission will have a booth on Sunday, **May 30, 2010** from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, but not Saturday. *Recycling* will be the primary focus. The City is asked to provide a 32-gallon Refuse cart and a 96-gallon Recycling cart. Eleven or 13 other green organizations are expected to participate, including the U.S. EPA Ground Water Protection Office. Staffing is as follows: 12:30-2:30 (Carr and Davis); 2:00-4:00 (Roa and Davidson); and 3:30-6:00 (Dighe, Kravitz, and Odunlami).

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Committee Reports:

Watershed Protection Committee

- The Committee met and discussed the best way of integrating the new watershed model into the outreach activities at the upcoming public events.
- Eleven volunteers participated in the Maryvale Creek stream clean up and collected 11 bags of trash. The Commission adopted this segment of the Creek as its own. Another clean up event is planned for the fall.
- The next Rainbarrel workshop is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, 2010 from 1-3:00 pm at the Twinbrook Community Center. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and even assist in presenting the training.

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee

- The Committee met and discussed the issues raised during the comment period on the proposed comprehensive amendments to the Building Codes in Chapter 5 of the City Code.
- The group also discussed an incentives paper drafted by Environmental Management staff. The Committee indicated it would work with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce to craft green building incentive recommendations for the Mayor and Council.

Outreach and Education Committee

- The Committee met and discussed its participation in Science Day and Hometown Holidays.
- The Committee debriefed on efforts to promote Earth Hour and the Super Bowl social marketing initiative.
- The need for new brochures on energy savings opportunities and water quality issues was identified.
- Commissioner Davis indicated he would be stepping down as Committee chair after Hometown Holidays, but would remain on the Committee.
- Commissioner Roa developed a recycling promotional cartoon available on Facebook.

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- The Committee plans to prepare and distribute a 2011 *energy and sustainability tip* calendar for residents. It may use photos from the Earth Day photo contest. The calendar will also be posted on the City's website.

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

- City Staff has been working on a Water Resources Element (WRE) that, once adopted by the Mayor and Council and approved by the State, will become part of the City's comprehensive master plan. The WRE is a strategic look at water, sewer and stormwater issues facing Rockville over the next 30 years. Commission comments are due by June 9, 2010. City staff will be briefing the Planning Commission on the document on May 12, 2010.
- Stormwater Ordinance (City Code Chapter 19) Discussion & Instruction with the Mayor and Council has been delayed until May 24, 2010. MDE has reviewed the draft final rule and has made comments. Adoption is now targeted for June 7, 2010.
- Green Building Ordinance (City Code Chapter 5) is scheduled for adoption on May 10, 2010. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Filling a Commission Vacancy

Commissioners are reminded that there is a vacancy on the Commission and potential candidates should be recruited. Interested individuals should contact the City Clerk's Office, a Commissioner or the Environmental Management Staff of the City.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm by unanimous acclimation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**

Follow Up/Action Items

- Environmental Management to provide Contact information for the Chamber of Commerce
- Commissioners should actively recruit potential candidates to serve on the Commission.